

Training "Bandits" for Combat | Capturing History on Canvas | Freedom Team Salute

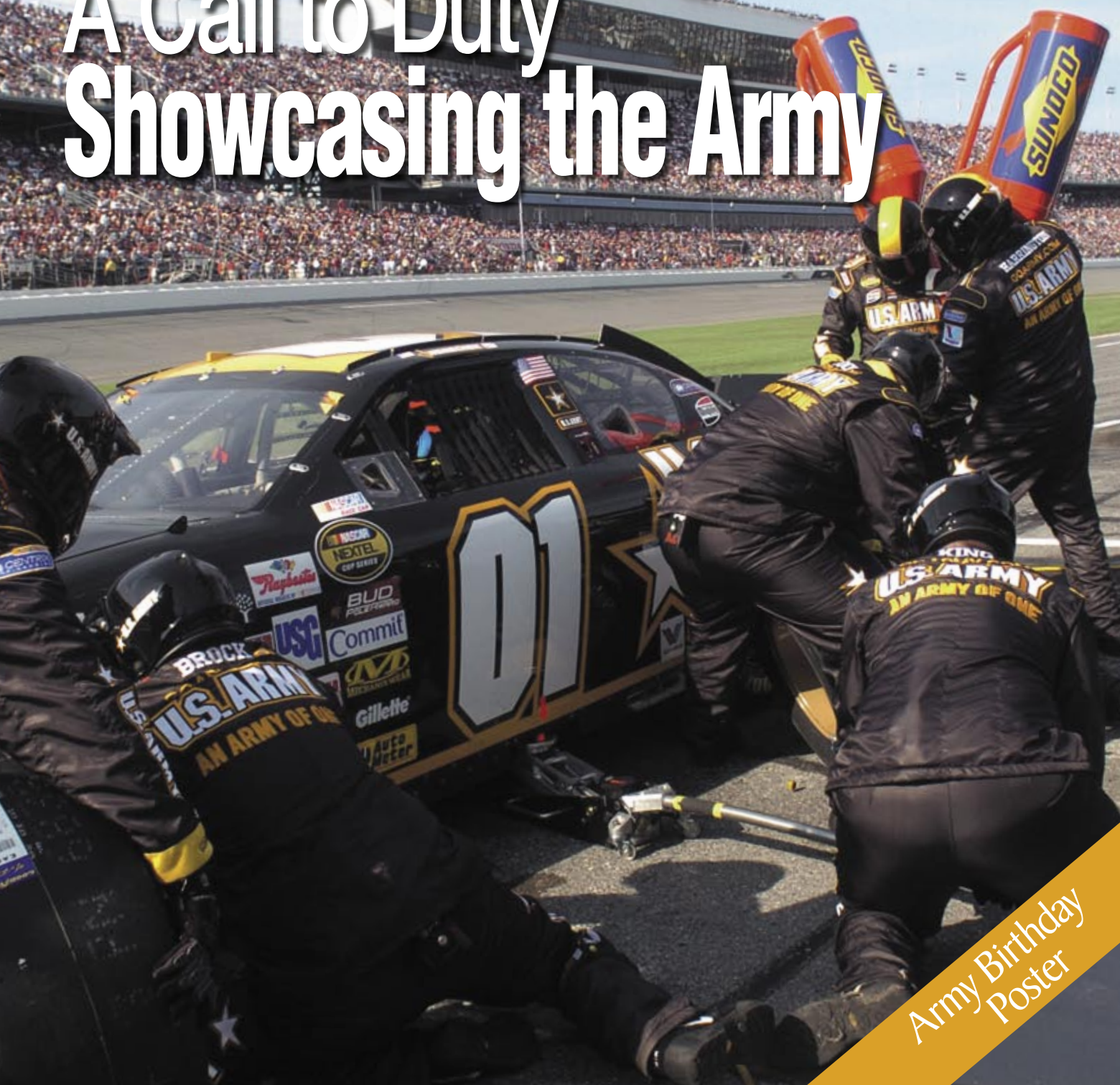
The Official U.S. Army Magazine

June 2005

[www.soldiersmagazine.com](http://www.soldiersmagazine.com)

# Soldiers

## A Call to Duty Showcasing the Army



Army Birthday  
Poster





**Cover Story** — Page 26  
The “Army of One” racecar, driven by Joe Nemechek, gets the pit treatment during the Daytona 500 NASCAR race.  
— Photo by SFC Antony Joseph

# CONTE

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JUNE 14 marks the Army's 230th birthday. From the Continental Army's first battle — at Boston on June 17, 1775 — to little-known early explorations such as the Red River Expedition of 1806 to today's operations in the war on terrorism, the Army has continued to answer the call to duty, promoting and protecting freedom throughout the world.

To commemorate that call to duty and as a salute to Flag Day, this month Soldiers brings you a poster listing the Army's campaigns. Look carefully at the background and you'll also see the Army values personalized in the Warrior Ethos.

Also in this issue, on page 34, is Paul Henry Crank's artful salute to the Army Birthday, the Resolution of the Continental

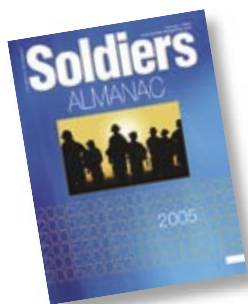


Congress establishing the Army. You might say that the resolution also served as the Army's first pay chart, setting the

infantryman's salary at almost seven dollars per month.

We also encourage you to read a special feature titled "Freedom Team Salute." This new program provides a way for Soldiers to honor those who have supported or inspired them as they answer the call to duty. We encourage you to participate.

*Gil High*  
Gil High  
Editor in Chief



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### 2005 Army Birthday Message

On June 14, 2005, we proudly celebrate the United States Army's 230th Birthday. For 230 years, the Nation has entrusted the Army with preserving its peace and freedom, and defending its democracy. Since 1775, American Soldiers have answered the call to duty. They are imbued with the ideals of the Warrior Ethos and motivated by an unwavering belief that they will be victorious. Our Soldiers have understood that our Constitution and the freedom it guarantees are worth fighting for. They sacrifice their personal comfort and safety to answer a higher calling: service in the cause of freedom, both at home and abroad.

America is at war, and the call to duty pierces the air once again. Our adversaries have declared war on our way of life, attacked our homeland, and vowed to attack us again. America is threatened, and it is our duty to serve. America's sons and daughters who are answering the call to duty are engaged in the noblest work of life, protecting our Nation and enabling others to live free.


Today, our Soldiers protect our national interests around the globe, serving in more than 120 countries. Recently, in joint, combined environments, Soldiers helped to rescue two nations from oppression, and liberated over 50 million people. Since then, more than 1 million Americans have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and many are returning for a second or third time. Our Soldiers understand that this is a struggle we must win. We are humbled by their sacrifices in the service of our Nation. Despite the hardships, and the danger to life and limb, duty calls, and our Soldiers continue to answer.

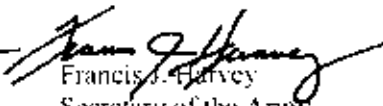
Our Nation appreciates your courage, your sacrifice, and your selfless service. This week the United States Postal Service is demonstrating support for our Soldiers with a special cancellation stamp that commemorates our Army's 230 years of service to the Nation. They are also assisting in the Freedom Team Salute, a program to send an Army Birthday card to every Soldier. We thank the US Postal Service for their role in recognizing the service of our troops. They are joined by a host of organizations around the country celebrating the Army Birthday.

To our Soldiers around the world, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families on this 230th Army Birthday. You are volunteers, doing your difficult duty against an enemy who does not value life, is afraid of liberty, and desires to crush the individual pursuit of a democratic way of life. You are playing a crucial role in the War on Terrorism, and your dedication to this noble effort underscores your determined professionalism and tenacity. We are proud to serve with you, as you place the mission first and live the Warrior Ethos. You have made our Army the most respected institution in the United States and the preeminent land power on Earth. Thank you for answering the call to duty.

God bless each and every one of you and your families, and God bless America.

  
Kenneth O. Preston  
Sergeant Major of the Army

  
Peter J. Schoomaker  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

  
Francis J. Harvey  
Secretary of the Army

### Haiti

SGT Jose Sierra sights in on his sector of fire during a Quick Reaction Force drill at Camp Unity. Sierra is a member of the 699th Engineer Battalion from Fort Bundy, Puerto Rico. The 699th was participating in Exercise New Horizons, a three-month humanitarian-aid and civic-assistance project in Haiti sponsored by U.S. Southern Command.

— Photo by PH2 Roger S. Duncan, USN







## ▲ Korea

SPC James Becton of Camp Red Cloud, Korea, brings spirit to the 2004 U.S. Army Soldier Show.

— Photo by Tim Hipps

## ◀ Iraq

SPC Joel De Leon of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, attaches the barrel of a .50-caliber machine gun before leaving on a patrol from Camp Patriot.

— Photo by SPC Ben Brody





## ▲ Afghanistan

Soldiers from JTF Wings prepare to attach lift cables to a cargo container full of food and other supplies bound for the village of Jildalek.

— Photo by PFC Cheryl Ransford



## ▲ Afghanistan

SGT Danny Rogers, a 25th Military Police Company dog handler, is “attacked” by a military working dog, during a training exercise at Bagram Airfield.

— Photo by PFC Cheryl Ransford



## ◀ Kuwait

MAJ Chris Brown, Kuwait Raven Equipping Detachment officer in charge, goes over the basics of operating the software for the Raven unmanned aerial vehicle with operators from 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division.

— Photo by SSG Raymond Piper



"In these demanding times, the support of families and employers gives our Soldiers strength and security while they are protecting our nation."

# Freedom Team

Story by Heike Hasenauer

## S A L U T E

**S**GT John Smith's commander called Smith's wife, Jane, to the podium before a crowd of well-wishers, who gathered in the post's gym to welcome his unit home from Iraq.

The moment when Jane threw her arms around John for the first time in a year would be one she'd never forget. To be singled out by her husband in this sea of dedicated spouses — who support and encourage Soldiers every day — well, that made the occasion doubly memorable.

The couple and the ceremony are fictional, but by the time this article is printed, the event may be representative of countless such ceremonies involving couples Army-wide.

The special surprise "SGT Smith" had planned for his wife was a Freedom Team Salute, introduced by the Army in May to honor the people the Army depends on most to keep

Soldiers going strong — spouses, parents and employers.

"In these demanding times, the support of families and employers gives our Soldiers strength and security while they are protecting our nation. Freedom Team Salute provides Soldiers with an excellent opportunity to salute those at home and to thank them for their continued support and encouragement," said Army Chief of Staff GEN Peter J. Schoomaker.

This special recognition can be given by all active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers

to spouses and parents. Guard and Reserve Soldiers may nominate their employers, and Army veterans can register to receive special recognition for their service. The program is an extension of the Army's Operation Tribute to Freedom campaign, which recognizes individual Soldiers for their service to the nation, said Army spokesman COL Richard H. Breen Jr.

From four to six weeks after a Soldier nominates a






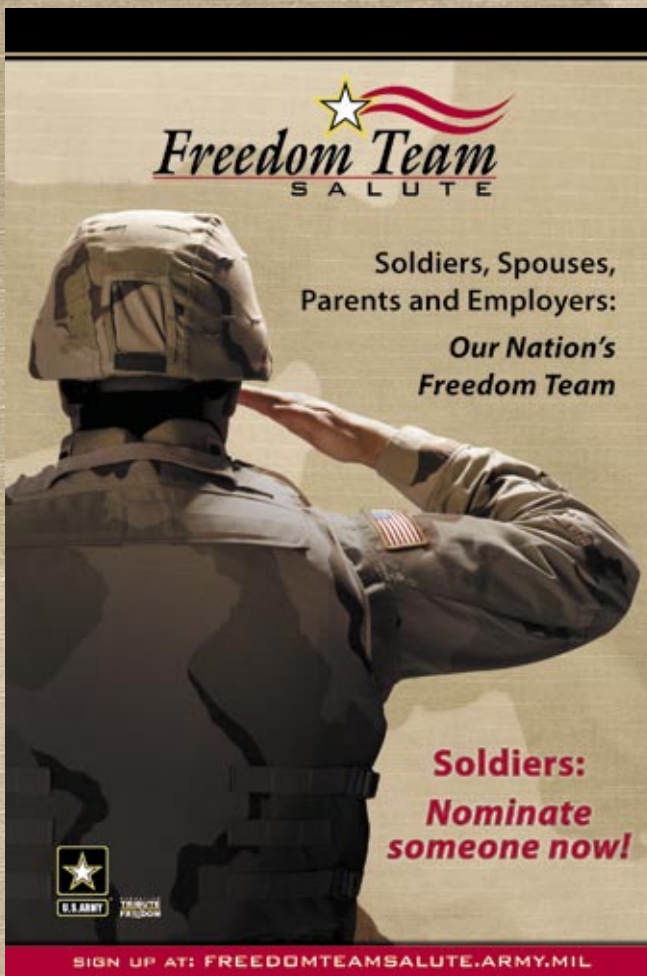
spouse, parent or employer, the honoree receives a Freedom Team Salute commendation package in the mail. The package includes a letter of thanks and certificate of appreciation signed by the chief of staff and secretary of the Army, an official U.S. Army lapel pin and U.S. Army decal, Breen said.

Soldiers and their commanders may take the program a step further by planning and organizing a Freedom Team Salute recognition ceremony for Soldiers and their families.

Salutes may be incorporated into welcome-home ceremonies and other local on-post events; Army Birthday and 4th of July celebrations; and veterans' events, such as Veterans Service Organization state and national conventions, Breen said.

"Freedom Team Salute is a way to recognize our veterans and show them just how much we appreciate the legacy of loyal service that they have passed on to generations of Soldiers," Schoomaker said.

To request information about how you can conduct such a ceremony, or for further details about the program, write to the Army Public Affairs Office at [freedomteamsalute@hqda.army.mil](mailto:freedomteamsalute@hqda.army.mil). Nominations for the FTS should be made by visiting the FTS Web site: [www.army.mil/otf](http://www.army.mil/otf). 



OPERATION  
**TRIBUTE**  
TO  
**FREEDOM**



To learn more about Operation Tribute to Freedom, visit <http://www.army.mil>

# Supplying the Force

Story and Photos by Beth Reece

WHERE Soldiers go, quartermasters follow with bullets, fuel and chow.

“Watch the news and you’ll see quartermasters all over the battlefield making sure that everything Soldiers need to sustain themselves and fight gets to the right place at the right time,” said CSM Jose Silva, top NCO at the Quartermaster Center and School at Fort Lee, Va.

Quartermasters have been supply-

ing Soldiers in war since the American Revolution. Once boasting 113 job specialties, the Quartermaster Corps now has only nine.



But don’t mistake the downsizing for diminishing need. Quartermasters have done their share to help score success in Operation Iraqi Freedom — daily serving 500,000 meals, delivering 1.2 million gallons of fuel, producing 4 million gallons of water and conducting 214 convoys with more than 2,291 vehicles.



▲ Petroleum-supply specialists must be able to connect hoses and valves on tanker trucks, airplanes, ships and railroad cars in order to load fuel.







SSG Ramburto Torres instructs PV2 Christina Whitzel and PFC Dana Wilson on the procedures for checking the volume and temperature of petroleum and gases in a tanker.



▲ PFC Justin Downing, a petroleum-laboratory specialist, checks fuel samples for contaminants, oil, water and sediment.

The Quartermaster Center and School trains Soldiers in fuel supply and testing, water purification, food service, laundry and shower, unit supply, parachute rigging, aerial delivery and mortuary affairs.

“A lot of Soldiers coming through here are headed for units that are already in Iraq or Afghanistan, so we spend a lot of time mentoring them for deployment,” said SFC Michael Nichols, NCO in charge of the logistics training department.

## ■ The Providers

Petroleum-supply specialists acquire, stock and issue fuel to keep the force moving. Before the product is pumped into customers’ tanks, petroleum-laboratory specialists test for contaminants, oil, water and sediment, and also analyze chemicals for strength, purity and toxic qualities.

“Bad fuel affects the entire operation. It can increase the risk of a stall, and static buildup can cause aircraft to explode,” said SSG Osbert Okebata, an instructor. “Ultimately, it can lead to a loss of combat power when the force can’t move forward.”

In field environments where units

need fuel daily, petroleum-supply specialists must ensure product that’s pumped out is steadily replaced with incoming fuel. They must also be able to connect hoses and valves when refueling tanker trucks, aircraft, ships and rail cars.

Quartermasters supported the Army’s energy needs with fuel, kerosene and wood long before the arrival of motor vehicles, according to Luther Hanson, museum specialist for the Quartermaster Museum at Fort Lee.

“We even provided candles. We’ve been doing this mission all the way back to the industrial revolution,” Hanson said.

“A lot of Soldiers coming through here are headed for units that are already in Iraq or Afghanistan, so we spend a lot of time mentoring them for deployment.”





Water-treatment specialists ensure Soldiers get water for drinking, washing clothes and bathing. They also provide water to engineers for construction purposes, as well as to hospitals. Using several filtrations and reverse osmosis, water-treatment specialists can sanitize seawater, saltwater, creek water and even pond water.

Unit-supply specialists request,

receive, issue, store and account for all equipment — ranging from ammunition and gas masks to spare parts — in their units' inventory. They also schedule and perform preventive maintenance on weapons.

### Meeting the Demand

Business is fast-paced for supply specialists following their units to the

field, where the demand for supply and parts often escalates. Orders are processed in the field and parts come in from the rear. In such places as Iraq and Afghanistan, supply specialists work with in-country storage depots to get the parts Soldiers need.

“When supply specialists go into theater, they take only the parts that are in high demand, such as batteries



▲ SSG Spencer Cox (far right) instructs PV1 Anthony Bryant and PV2 General Woods on how to deploy a “dolphin strainer.” Water-treatment specialists can sanitize seawater, creek water and even pond water.





◀ Unit-supply and automated-logistical specialists maintain, stock and distribute the Army's large inventory of food, medicines, ammunition and spare parts.

or starters, things that are considered a basic load. It also depends on the type of units they're supporting," said Nichols.

"We don't want to cut the company short even though we're out in the field," added Nichols, who helped train the Afghan National Army to maintain its own supply system.

Automated-logistical specialists run the Army's supply warehouses. They unload, unpack, inspect, separate and store incoming supplies. When parts are requested by unit-supply specialists, they pack, crate, weigh and band equipment for shipping, if necessary, all while maintaining records and ordering replacement stocks.

Identified by red baseball-style caps, parachute riggers pack and inspect personnel parachutes, pack cargo parachutes and rig cargo for airdrop.

Riggers must be airborne qualified and serve in jump status in order to hold their jobs. They must also be detail oriented, able to detect rips and tangled lines.

"When I pack a guy's parachute, his life is in my hands," said CW5 Arthur Waldo, a senior airdrop systems technician. "I need to be sure that parachute will operate properly, and in order to really understand that, I need to jump that parachute myself and know how it functions."

The chance of a personnel parachute malfunction is about one in every 250,000, he added.

"The outcome usually depends on how the jumper reacts. Most Soldiers activate their reserve 'chutes and are okay," Waldo said.

When Soldiers head for the field,





▲ Parachute riggers pack cargo parachutes and rig cargo for airdrop.

shower and laundry specialists install and operate field showers and mobile laundry systems. They can process and wash bulk laundry, sew shoulder insignia and name tapes on organizational clothing, repair damaged sleeping bags, set up 12-head shower units and operate water heaters.

Laundry and shower operations began during World War I out of con-

cern for Soldiers' health.

"Back then a Soldier might be lucky to get one shower a month. But cleanli-

▶ The safety of personnel parachutes is up to parachute riggers, who inspect the chutes for rips and tangled lines before packing them for safe operation.







▲ Shower and laundry specialists ensure Soldiers get clean laundry and showers in the field. They install and operate mobile washers, dryers and shower heads.

ness became a priority because of lice and diseases Soldiers were getting in the trenches,” said Hanson.

After nine weeks learning the basic techniques of cooking and baking, food-service specialists feed the force in garrison dining facilities, hospitals and field environments using mobile kitchens.

“When we feed Soldiers down-range it really lifts their morale. They look forward to their breakfast, lunch and dinner,” said SSG Kimberly Liu, noncommissioned officer in charge of the craft-skills training branch.

Today’s cooks are encouraged to experiment and stretch their creative skills — some ultimately earn distinc-

tion as culinary artists after completing advanced training.

While the Army’s first cookbooks were penned during the Civil War, the first cooks weren’t exactly volunteers for kitchen duty, Hansen said.

“Sometimes Soldiers were ordered to do the cooking. They weren’t trained, practical cooks back then. Or, if you were on a permanent post, you’d have an assigned team of Soldiers, spouses or contractors,” he said.

Mortuary-affairs specialists perform the most somber of quartermaster duties. They conduct searches for deceased personnel, recover re-

▶ Food-service specialists get the opportunity to bake breads, cakes, pies and pastries.

mains and personal effects, establish tentative identification and evacuate remains.

## ✦ Combat Ready

Quartermasters were once thought safe from harm.

“Traditionally, we were positioned in the rear and provided functional support from a safe location,” said Silva. “But 9/11 forever changed the way we fight. We have a new enemy with new tactics now.”

The reality of today’s war seeps into Soldiers’ minds during a four-day exercise that tests their vigilance and combat readiness. They face such scenarios as sniper fire, ambushes, minefields, explosive devices, civilians on the battlefield, protestors and medical evacuations.

One scenario checks quartermasters’ ability to fire on the move.

“We had a squad shoot 113 times



▶ Food-service Soldiers learn the basics of cooking and baking before heading to their first duty stations. They can be assigned to dining facilities or hospitals, and can prepare meals using field kitchens.







▲ Quartermaster trainees spend four days in the field facing such scenarios as sniper fire, ambushes, minefields, explosive devices, civilians on the battlefield, protestors and medical evacuations.

with only five hits. This shows Soldiers that firing their weapons is more than just pulling the trigger. They have to aim and engage with some type of accuracy,” said LTC Micky Martin, commander of Fort Lee’s 262nd Quartermaster Battalion.

The life-and-death need for tactical finesse is marked by the fact that many combat-service-support Soldiers deployed to Iraq have been tasked to perform duties other than those required by their basic MOSs. The contracting of dining facilities has led food-service specialists to the gates of troop compounds, where they provide security, for example. And some food-service Soldiers assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division have found themselves piloting the Raven, an aerial-re-


connaisance vehicle.

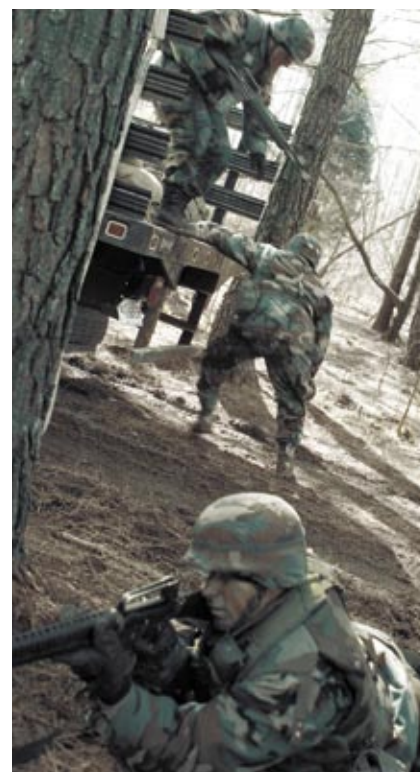
Automated-logistical specialist SGT Cameron Newsome recently attended the quartermaster school’s basic noncommissioned officer course after serving as a squad leader in Iraq. He helped acquaint initial-entry Soldiers to the complexities of combat during field training.

“We have to do convoy runs and guard perimeters just like every other Soldier. It’s good to be up on the technical part of your job, but being a Soldier first is what keeps you alive,” Newsome said.

For those who disbelieve, Liu can testify.

“Feeding the Soldiers in Iraq was one of the most difficult things I’ve ever done. As cooks, we were defending ourselves and holding a perimeter, getting down in the trenches. We got mortared every night,” said Liu.

More than 677 purple hearts have been awarded to quartermasters in Iraq and Afghanistan. 



▲ A Soldier provides cover while others dismount from a vehicle.



▲ Afghan children stare out of a window above some of the weapons found and confiscated during the search.

# Morning Raid in Afghanistan

Story and Photos by SSG Mark Turney

A RECENT early-morning search conducted jointly in Afghanistan's Qarabaugh District by Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, and the Afghan National Army, netted thousands of rounds of ammunition and anti-tank mines. Many weapons were also uncovered.

It was the first time the American infantrymen had conducted a joint operation with the newly replaced ANA troops.

"We had some problems early on in the operation," said CPT Patrick Combs, Task Force Normandy's battle captain. "Because of the urgency of this operation, we didn't get to train or rehearse with this group, but, all in all, the operation was a success, and the participation of ANA soldiers was invaluable."

The combined units rolled down Route 1, Ring Road, and headed towards their turn-off, just past the town of Saydabad, where roadsides were piled high with snow. Eleven vehicles, with every seat occupied and every turret manned, approached the compound of the suspected arms dealer.

## Sunrise was still hours away.

As the vehicles began turning onto the dirt road, which would bring them to the suspects' compound, three vehicles got stuck in axle-deep mud. It took the combined units nearly an hour to extricate all the vehicles before their jour-

ney could continue.

Everyone was in a heightened state of alert - fearing that the element of surprise may have been lost, said 1LT Heath Phillips, on-site commander of the operation and senior officer of the antitank platoon. "When we rolled up on the compound and no one met us, we all breathed a sigh of relief."

Immediately, the units began dispersing. The Soldiers knew well what their roles would be, having performed similar operations in the past. The ANA also began to disperse and took direction from the U.S. Soldiers interspersed with them.

Fanning out to cover all the exits from the compound, Soldiers from the 116th Inf. quickly surrounded the compound.

Surprisingly, the owner of the house exited the compound even as it was being surrounded. He waited patiently at the gate to his home, was quickly searched and told to allow the Soldiers to search his property.

"How many people are in there?" asked Phillips, through an interpreter. "Wake them up and get them into the courtyard, now."

The man led Soldiers to one of the main entrances and, with the owner leading the way, they began clearing each room in the large compound.

As the owner implored the inhabitants of the building to come out of their rooms, the doors began to open and people began filling the compound's courtyard. At first only the male residents came out. No women or children were





▲ An Afghan policeman aids Soldiers as they search an Afghan man for weapons. The search operation netted thousands of rounds of ammunition, as well as rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns and assault rifles.

“Because of the urgency of this operation, we didn’t get to train or rehearse with this group, but, all in all, the operation was a success, and the participation of ANA soldiers was invaluable.”

visible. They had been hiding out in one of the out buildings. The Soldiers escorted them, under female guard, to the courtyard.

As is the custom of the Afghan Muslims, the women and children were separated from the men. Female Soldiers from the 25th Military Police Company guarded the women, while the Soldiers kept watch over the men in another wing of the compound.

Infantrymen knocked on and opened doors, while Soldiers from the 229th Engineer Bn., a Virginia Army National Guard unit assigned to Task Force Normandy, checked each entrance and room for signs of booby traps. None were found, so the Soldiers quickly entered the rooms of the main building of the compound.

“We’ve got weapons and other material here,” one Sol-

dier shouted. The shouted phrase was repeated many times throughout the morning, as more and more caches were found.

The complete search of the compound took nearly four hours, during which thousands of rounds of ammunition, anti-tank mines, rockets and mortar rounds were found. The Soldiers also confiscated loaded weapons, including several heavy machine guns.

“This operation showed how we are continuing to work with the ANA and the Afghan National Police to maintain security throughout the region,” said MAJ Andrew Pavord, acting battalion commander, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. “We helped remove some very dangerous weapons from the area, making it more difficult for the insurgents to acquire and use them against us.”



# Capturing Histor

Story by Heike Hasenauer

**A**MERICAN Soldier-artists have captured the realities of war on canvas since World War I, and artists have accompanied Soldiers at least since the Mexican War, said BG John S. Brown (Ret.), director of the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

20 [www.soldiersmagazine.com](http://www.soldiersmagazine.com)

This month, in honor of the Army's 230th birthday, CMH will release a series of posters based on the artwork of Army artist SFC Elzie Golden, entitled "Today's Soldier 2005."

The first set of the "Today's Soldier" prints highlighted the work

of artist MSG Henrietta Snowden and was published for the Army's birthday in 2001, Brown said.

The new set of five paintings and a drawing features Soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq.

While Golden was not in Afghanistan, he spent several months in





◀ **Satan's Sandbox:** An oil painting depicting elements of the 3rd Inf. Div. and 11th Avn. Regt. near Karbala, Iraq, in the spring of 2003. The painting is based on imagery collected by Golden.

▼ **Liberator:** Charcoal of a 101st Airborne Div. Soldier in Mosul, Iraq. Golden was there in July 2003.



# y on Canvas

*Featuring historical paintings by Army Artist SFC Elzie Golden*



Kuwait and Iraq, taking photographs from which he later based his artwork. Two of the paintings, he said, are based on photographs provided by Joint Combat Camera personnel.

"Soldiers in individual units, who had been on the ground taking photos from the get-go," also provided many

of the images Golden later used as references, he said.

"It was sort of a whirlwind tour in Iraq," Golden said of his visits with Soldiers there. "I traveled with the sergeant major of the Army, and it was like trying to see Europe in 30 days."

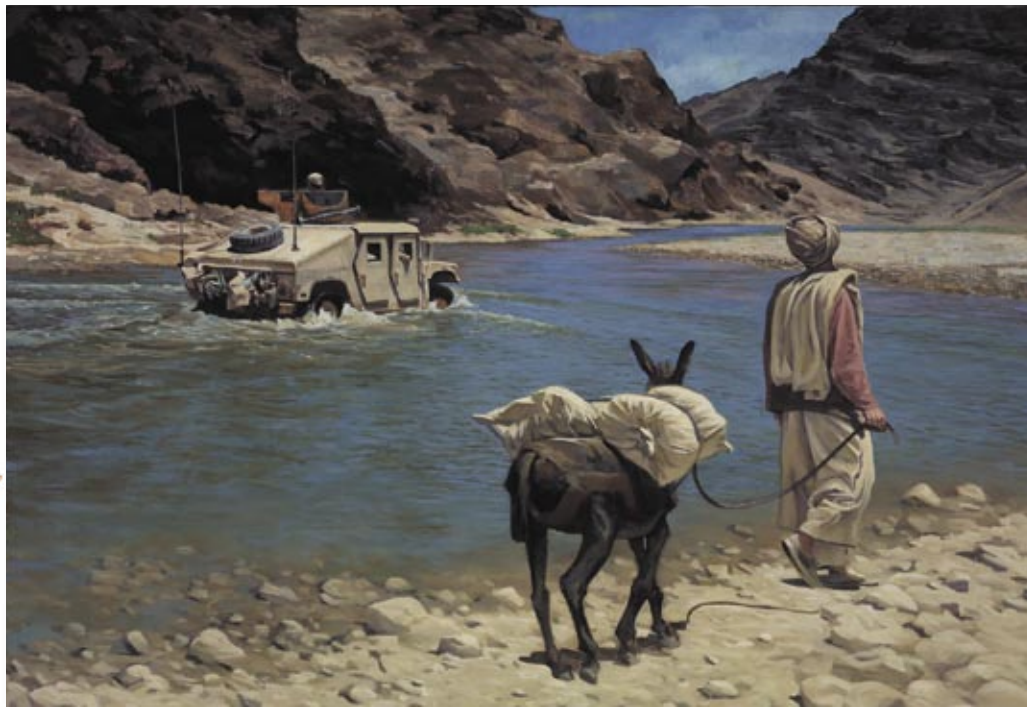
The former professional illustrator

and newspaper art director, who did everything from catalog layouts to editorial drawings, enlisted in the Army in 1984. When he traveled to Iraq as the resident Army artist at CMH, it was his first experience in combat.

"I was definitely nervous at first," he said. "But, gradually, I got used



► **Tracking bin Laden:** An oil painting based on multiple imagery obtained from JCC.



to the sounds of mortar rounds going off.”

Drawing and painting in the desert environment proved difficult, and occasionally impossible, due not only to the sporadic insurgent attacks.

“I tried painting while I was there,” Golden said. “But it was 105 degrees out, and sweat dripped down my hands and face onto the canvas, and sand blew all over the place.” So, he did most of his work in the comfort of his studio at home.

His three-year tour at CMH is nearly finished — he’s due to PCS in October — and Golden is completing artwork based on his time in Iraq. Beyond that, “I’m hoping I’m going to do something better than what I’ve done,” he said. Not that he feels he didn’t do the Soldiers in Iraq justice through his work.

“I think I did fine by them,” he said. “But, artists always want to do something better than their last project.”

Golden would like to visit Walter Reed Army Medical Center and other military medical facilities, he said, to focus on Soldiers who are recovering from combat injuries and perhaps do paintings of them undergoing rehabilitation.

For information about how you



▲ **Street Fight:** An oil painting of Soldiers of the 3rd Inf. Div. engaging Iraqi forces in the town of An Najaf during the early months of the war. Golden worked from photos given to him by 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers.

can order prints of Golden’s work and view some of his other prints, visit the CMH Web site at [www.army.mil/cmh/art/Golden/Golden.htm](http://www.army.mil/cmh/art/Golden/Golden.htm).

Beth MacKenzie, CMH’s chief of graphics, said unit administrators should order the print series — CMH Pub 70-96 — just as they would order such military publications as

Army regulations. Prints may also be purchased through the Government Printing Office.

They’ll be available starting June 14, MacKenzie said.

“Our hope is that these prints will join other works of art that have contributed to the Army’s awareness of its long heritage,” said Brown. 📌



For information about other U.S. Army Center of Military History programs and offerings, visit the CMH Web site at



[www.army.mil/cmh-pg](http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg).



## Soldier-Artist

**B**EFORE coming to the U.S. Army Center of Military History's Museum Division to do artwork for the Army's art archives in 2002, SFC Elzie Golden taught future joint-service, multimedia illustrators basic graphics at the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md.

During his four-year stint there, he supervised 19 instructors and worked with some 400 students at any given time.

In 1990 he was a member of Soldier-Artist Team 25 when the Army selected several Soldiers to compose a four-member team, based on a review of candidates' portfolios, Golden said. He produced 14 artworks that documented ROTC training at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Golden's work is featured in CMH books, including "Portrait of an Army" and "Soldiers Serving the Nation."

He also provided artwork for the Armed Forces Day posters for 2001 and 2002. He took first-place honors in the fine-art category of the first Military Graphic Artist of the Year competition in 2000 and earned the award again in 2002.

Golden, who's married and has two children, studied fine art at the School of Visual Arts in New York and the University of Arizona. — *Heike Hasenauer*



Golden departs the Baghdad airport for Mosul aboard a CH-47 in June 2003.



▲ **The Hizara Province:** An oil painting depicting special forces Soldiers patrolling the region of the Hizara tribe in Afghanistan during the spring of 2002. Golden based the painting on JCC images.



▲ **Fallujah:** A mixed-media work depicting a 3rd Inf. Div. Soldier sleeping in quarters on the outskirts of Fallujah. Golden was at the site in June 2003.



# GO ARI

National Hot Rod Association Pro Stock bike racer Antron Brown explodes away from the start during the Top Fuel Champion

Photo





# ARMY

ship at the Maple Grove Raceway.  
by SFC Antony Joseph/Soldiers Magazine



## A Call to Duty

# Showcasing

Story by SFC Antony Joseph

SFC Antony Joseph



The Army of One racecar crosses the start/finish line in 13th place during the latter half of the Daytona 500.

th

**T**HE lifeblood of any organization is its workforce, and this is most evident within the Army, which depends on its Soldiers to fight and win wars.

Although the U. S. Army is the most technologically advanced fighting force in the world, it is Soldiers who make it the vibrant entity that has successfully guarded America's freedom and defended the country for generations.

So, as Soldiers retire or leave the force, it's essential that recruiters have the resources they need to encourage the next generation to answer the call to duty.

Most people only see the recruiters who "pound the pavement" for new recruits, visiting schools, going to prospective Soldiers' homes and persuading likely candidates to join the military. But, there are a lot more tools being used behind the scenes to help recruiters accomplish their mission.

One such tool is the U.S. Army Event Marketing Program, "which is designed to help the Army target its recruiting efforts to specific events," said Tom Tiernan, chief of the Outreach and Event-Marketing Division of the U.S. Army Accessions Command.


Events such as NASCAR and National Hot Rod Association races, professional rodeo bullriding and the U.S. Army All-American Bowl are among the events that the Army sponsors.

Tiernan said that the idea of the program is to help young people and their "influencers" (parents, coaches and educators) understand what it means to be a Soldier, and to provide the Army an opportunity for one-on-one communications. Most of the events include an interactive area, which gives the fans a chance to have a real Army experience.

"There are simulators that give participants the feel of driving and flying Army vehicles. At the NHRA, the Youth and Education Services

program offers seminars that show how the Army can help people achieve meaningful careers in their fields of interest."

The events the Army sponsors have one thing in common — Army standards. The concept of working as part of a team is highlighted by the "Army of One" teams at the NASCAR, NHRA and football games, and the importance of individual dedication is highlighted by the "Army of One" rodeo riders and race-car drivers.

Tiernan said that most of these sports personalities make visits to high schools and colleges on a regular basis to promote the Army. He also said that 95 percent of the people who come to the Army interactive tent have never before been exposed to the Army. And, with all the other sponsors vying to sell their products at sports events, "it is important that we get the Army's message across, so it resonates with young people both culturally and topically." 





SFC Anthony Joseph

Drag racing superstar and U. S. Army car driver Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher smokes off the start line on his way to clinching the National Hot Rod Association Top Fuel Championship at Maple Grove Raceway in Reading, Pa.

MSG Jack Braden



The East's Jason Gwaltney runs for yardage against a West team that walked away with a 35-to-3 win during the fifth U.S. Army-sponsored All-American Bowl at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

# e ARMY

CPL Matt Millham



Steer wrestler Luke Branquinho, one of eight Army-sponsored cowboys in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, leaps off his horse and onto a steer at the Pace Picante Pro Rodeo Chute Out in Las Vegas, Nev.







# Training “Bandits” for Combat

Story and Photos by SGT Gregory Withrow



Navigating strands of concertina wire, an M1A1 Abrams tank from 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, races through a breach opened by engineers during training.





**T**HE rattle and pop of small-arms and machine-gun fire shattered the crisp silence of early morning in the foothills of the Taunus Mountains of Hessen, Germany.

Along the former Roman frontier, mounted Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, recently trained, adapting lessons learned from combat in the sands of another former Roman frontier — Iraq.

To hone their skills in dismounted operations, some of the Soldiers left the safety of their M1A1 Abrams tanks in the forests of the Friedberg Training Area to “assault” on foot a position

held by mock enemy troops.

“Dismounted operations are something new for these tankers,” said 1LT Jonathan Villasenor, executive officer of the 1st Bn.’s Company A. Using the military-operations-in-urban-terrain facilities at FTA, the “Bandits,” as Soldiers of the unit call themselves, practiced techniques for entering and searching structures in a hostile environment.

Inching slowly forward through the wood line, they prepared to rush a building. A few of them remained hidden in a prone position, providing cover for their comrades, who burst from the relative safety of cover to storm a cinder-block structure.

Shots rang out, and the Soldiers flattened themselves against the

muddy earth or the cold stone walls of the structure, taking a moment to collect their wits before entering the building’s only doorway.

From the wood line, supporting fire erupted to suppress the waiting enemy and allowed the Bandits to make their move and assault the entrance.

The scene was repeated several times as the Bandits honed skills traditionally associated with infantrymen or combat engineers.

“This training is really intense and fast,” said PFC Ellery Majalca, a tank driver. “They should really implement this at one-station unit training.”

OSUT combines the basic and advanced individual training tankers receive at Fort Knox, Ky. Infantry Soldiers receive OSUT training at Fort

SGT Gregory Withrow works in the 1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office.





▲ During MOUT training, SSG Simala Wright warns other Soldiers to get out of a building packed with simulated IEDs.

▲ Battalion commander LTC Garry Bishop (left) evaluates his Soldiers' performance during an after-action review.

➤ Dismounted tankers cover all the angles as they prepare to advance during MOUT training.

Benning, Ga.

Although the Bandits advanced on the building on foot, they weren't without an intimidating "big brother" as backup. Other members of the team watched over their comrades from the turrets of their 72-ton rolling fortresses, which moved to the outskirts of the mock village.

"Shock effect, that's what it is," LTC Garry Bishop, commander of the 1st Bn., 37th Armd. Regt., told his troops during an after-action review







▲ One of 1st Battalion's M1 Abrams tanks moves carefully through the small town of Schmitten, Germany.

designed to highlight the positives of a particular exercise and examine what could have been done better.

"Tanks surrounding a building, leveling their 120 mm guns on it, give the enemy pause, to decide if he really wants to fight or not," Bishop said.

Integrating and adapting every piece of equipment the Bandit battalion has at its disposal is a key focus of this type of training.

"You have the 240B dismount kits," said Bishop. "Use them."

The 7.62 mm 240B machine gun is mounted atop the Abrams tank at the loader's hatch and can be quickly dismounted and adapted to an infantry-style weapon capable of providing rapid suppressive fire to support troops moving from building to building.

"Don't think this is infantry stuff and you don't have to learn it, because you do," Bishop told his Soldiers.

Even as the Bandits prepared for

the possibilities of low-intensity urban combat, they focused on the high-intensity spectrum for which tanks are designed.

Mounting up and rolling out from FTA, the Bandits and their supporting elements from Co. B, 16th Engineer Bn; 501st Forward Support Bn.; and members of the 2nd Bn., 3rd Field Artillery Regt., convoyed about 40 kilometers, tactically, over the Taunus Mountains to the outskirts of a small German village, Wuerges.

Most maneuver training in Europe takes place at the Combat Maneuver Training Center at Hohenfels, Germany, but this sort of exercise has a different flavor than the force-on-force simulations held inside "The Box" at CMTC, Bishop said.

In Wuerges, the maneuver culminated in a breach exercise designed to test the Soldiers' abilities to surmount high-intensity-conflict obstacles. But



along the way, tactically navigating the small streets of German villages provided challenges similar to those faced in Iraq.

Maneuvering outside the box provided a realistic challenge of command and control over long distances, said CPT Joseph Albrecht, Co. A's commander. Along with realistic movement was the element of surprise, as the Bandits lead tank was struck by a simulated improvised explosive device.

This type of training is now standard for Army units, because no one is immune to an IED. Reacting to an ambush of this type provides an opportunity for everyone in the unit to train for various contingencies in combat, because the entire unit and its





▲ Even while moving through German streets, the battalion's Soldiers remain alert for possible "enemy" action.

supporting elements move as a whole.

Training everyone on his M113 armored personnel carrier to perform all of the tasks required of its crew members was combat medic SSG Gustavo Hernandez's primary function.

"Everyone needs to know everyone else's job," said Hernandez, adding that the best training is the most realistic training.

When you train, believe it's the real thing, he said. Then, when the real thing happens, your training will allow you to respond without hesitation, and correctly. "That's the way I want my guys to train." 📡



▲ 1LT Brett Brenkus orders the rest of his platoon to move out.



# Resolution of the Co

**“RESOLVED**, that six companies of expert riflemen be immediately raised in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland, and two in Virginia; that each company consist of a captain, three lieutenants, four sergeants, four corporals, a drummer or trumpeter and sixty-eight privates.

“That each company, as soon as completed, shall march and join the Army near Boston, to be there employed as light infantry under the command of the chief officer in that Army.

“That the pay of the officers and privates be as follows; a captain at 20 dollars per month, a lieutenant at 13 and 1/3 dollars, a sergeant at 8 dollars, a corporal at 7 and 1/3 dollars, a drummer [or trumpeter] at 7 and 1/3 dollars, privates at 6 and 2/3 dollars; to find their own arms and clothes.

“That the form of the enlistment be in the following words. ‘I have, this day, voluntarily enlisted myself as a soldier in the American Continental Army, for one year, unless sooner discharged. And I do bind myself to conform in all instances to such rules and regulations as are, or will be, established for the government of said Army.’

“Upon motion, resolved, that Mr. [George] Washington, Mr. [Philip] Schuyler, Mr. [Silas] Deane, Mr. [Thomas] Cushing and Mr. [Joseph] Howes be a committee to bring in a draft of rules and regulations for the government of the Army.”





# *Continental Congress*

*14 June 1775*



***The United States Army***  
Answering the Call to Duty for 230 Years

# Documenting the 10<sup>th</sup>

Story and Photos by SGT Cain S. Claxton



**I**N MAKING a documentary about the 10th Mountain Division's operations in Italy during World War II, film producer Abbie Kealy thought she might learn more about her uncle, who was killed in the division's assault on Mount Belvedere.

The more Kealy learned about Stuart Abbot, the more she learned about the division, she said, and realized there was a "great story" to tell.

The ambitious project took Kealy across America to conduct interviews with scores of World War II veterans, and to Afghanistan, where she met the young men and women who are part of the division today.

In Italy, she filmed re-enactments

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SGT Cain S. Claxton is a journalist with the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y.

◀ Cameraman Richard Chisolm sets up another shot during the filming of "The Last Ridge," a documentary about the 10th Mountain Division in World War II.





▲ Chisholm and producer Abbie Kealy scan a now-peaceful area that during World War II was the scene of intense combat between American and German forces.

of battles at the sites where division Soldiers fought German troops.

Her effort gained momentum when author and historian McKay Jenkins asked her for photographs of her uncle. McKay was writing “The Last Ridge,” a book about the 10th Mtn. Div. Using journals and letters from division veterans, Jenkins wanted to personalize the division’s historical record.

Kealy adopted the book’s title for her film, which will be narrated by actor David Hyde Pierce, who is also a descendant of a World War II 10th Mtn. veteran. Kealy filmed

narratives of some 80 veterans.

For historical film footage, she searched archival records of the division and found that the film record before the division shipped to Italy in 1945 was excellent, largely due to the fact that Hollywood filmmakers frequented the division’s mountain training area — Camp

Hale, Colo. — because they were captivated by the unit’s specialization as ski troops.

The division’s visual record in Italy, where it was deployed to close out the war, dropped off precipitously, she said.

Having been to Italy to trace the division’s campaign trail, Kealy



► To ensure historical accuracy, the filmmakers searched out still-existent buildings that were scenes of wartime fighting, and included them in the documentary.





▲ Kealy explores a building that during the battle was a German strongpoint.

knew much of the terrain was virtually unchanged since the war.

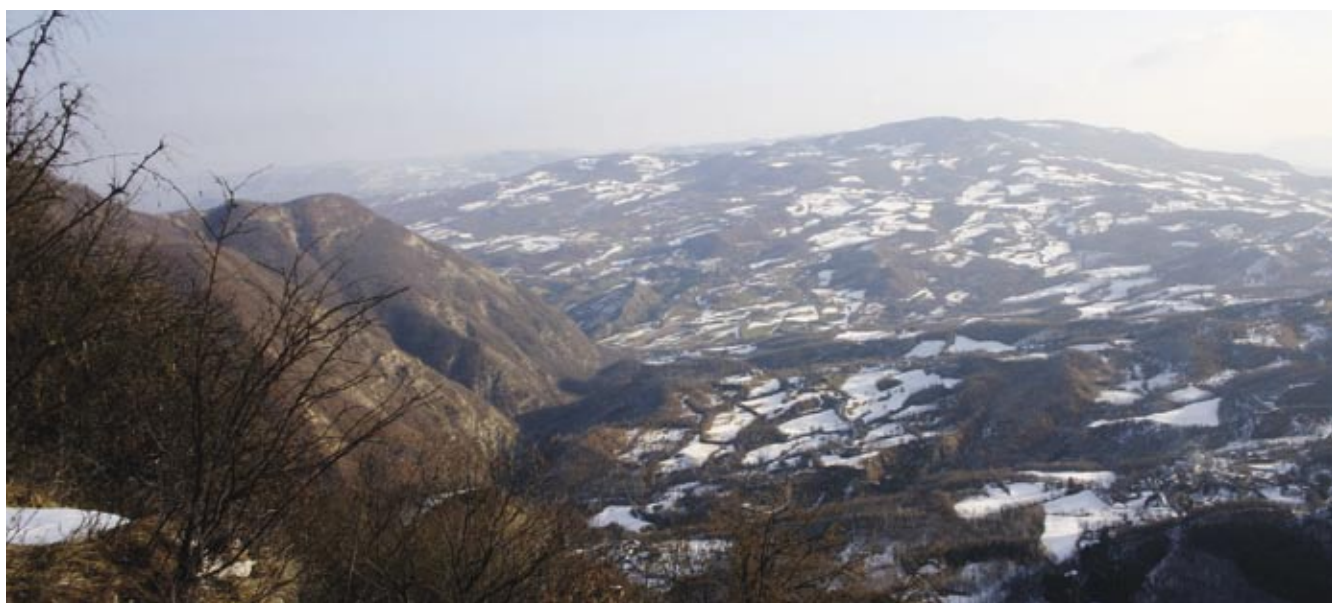
“The goal with the re-enactments was to try and create a visual record where there really was none,” Kealy said. “I really wanted viewers to get a sense of what it was like to be looking for your next hand- and foot-hold,” in a battle

that took Soldiers uphill in the snow, she said.

The re-enactment Kealy described is the division’s assault on Riva Ridge, a series of six or seven peaks that jut 3,000 feet from a narrow river valley. In a nighttime assault, Soldiers from the division’s 86th Infantry Regiment silently

ascended the steep slopes, surprising Germans troops who were at the top of the ridge.

German soldiers had been watching for activity on nearby Mount Belvedere and were ready to rain artillery on any American trying to capture that important vantage point. No one watched the



▲ Today, Riva Ridge (left) and Mount Belvedere appear serene. But during the war German artillery on Mount Belvedere was a constant threat to 10th Mountain Division Soldiers attempting to dislodge German troops from their positions.





▲ Kealy directs Chisolm as he films Italian re-enactor Filipe Fulvio, here portraying a dead German soldier, in a small village that was the site of real combat during the war.

"I really felt it was important for people to understand what the physical obstacles were, and we made a big effort to capture that..."

steep southern slope of Riva Ridge, Kealy said, because German soldiers had thought it was impassable.

"When you actually start re-enacting, you realize just how difficult the actual attack must have been," Kealy said. Soldiers on both sides were operating under horrible conditions.

"That's really difficult to understand from the pictures and movies that have been shot from the bottom of the ridge. I really felt it was important for people to understand what the physical obstacles were, and we made a big effort to capture that — not only on Riva Ridge, but other areas that are big in legend but small in critical visual record."

"This is a very modestly budgeted documentary film, and it's

worth making, but it's not like we can afford to shoot 'Saving Private Ryan,'" said Emmy Award-winning cameraman Richard Chisolm. "In terms of these re-enactments, it is very tricky, because we can't shoot a whole battle when we only have three or four actors and one little video camera. So what do we do?"

"We shoot nostalgic dream sequences that are mixed in with stories, interviews and still photographs to create glimpses of emotions and textures of war in the mountains," Chisolm said.

"We also filmed the topography, which is timeless if you avoid modern architecture and telephone poles," he said. "My job is to squeeze paint onto the pallet. The

*continued on page 41*

# Portraying American Soldiers

Story and Photos by SGT Cain S. Claxton

**T**HREE Italian men – one an architect, one a “Mr.-Fix-It” type, and the other a World War II-artifacts dealer – spend their leisure time near Vidiciatico, Italy, portraying U.S. Soldiers in World War II-battle re-enactments.

Massimo Berti, Filippi Fulvio and Giovanni Sulla recently portrayed 10th Mountain Division Soldiers in a documentary film about the American ski troops in World War II.

Berti, a former bodybuilder and a successful architect, who earned his master’s degree from the University of California at Berkley, spends weekends playing a 10th Mtn. Div. military police sergeant. He even owns a partially up-armored Humvee, he said.

Fulvio, a former captain in the Italian army, works as a handyman in Turin. On weekends, he’s “Maj.” Fulvio, an executive officer in the U.S. division.

And Sulla is the unit’s commander and most active member. He also maintains a

museum of World War II items in the center of Montesse, a town in Tuscany. The most prized items in his collection, he said, are 10th Mtn. Div. artifacts. So enamored with the division is Sulla that he wore his division gear at his wedding.

During filming of the documentary, Sulla often detected inaccuracies in costumes and scene locations and brought them to film producer Abbie Kealy’s attention, pointing to historical pictures that provided further details.

During breaks in filming, Sulla raised a glass of wine and toasted the division motto: “Climb to Glory.”

When filming wrapped in early February, Kealy recognized the re-enactors for their hard work.

Re-enactors relive events of the past with an extreme sense of gratitude to American Soldiers for their sacrifices, in this case, in Italy during World War II, one of the men said.

“This is a great honor for me,” said



▲ Sulla holds a Soldier’s dogtag that he recovered while searching WW II battle sites in the Appenine Mountains. He regularly searches such sites with a metal detector.

Sulla, “because some of the battles we re-enacted happened here in my town and in the mountains around my home.”

Fulvio said he is humbled by the sacrifices American Soldiers made and continue to make today. “We believe in the traditions and values of the U.S. Army. They inspire us. We truly wish to honor American Soldiers.” 🇺🇸



▲ Italian re-enactors Giovanni Sulla, Massimo Berti and Filippi Fulvio portray 10th Mountain Division Soldiers in the documentary “The Last Ridge,” which covers the division’s 1945 operations in Italy.





▲ Here looking deceptively calm, Lake Garda and the surrounding area were the scenes of intense fighting between advancing 10th Mountain Div. troops and retreating German forces.

*Continued from page 39*

film is made on the editing table. The more paint I can squeeze out, the better the film might be.”

Even without the threat of enemy fire and the burden of 90-pound rucksacks on their backs, Kealy, Chisolm and the small team of re-enactors were challenged by Riva Ridge. Six to eight inches of snow blanketed the Appenine Mountain region two days before filming began.

Fortunately for Kealy’s crew, four Italian mountain men, called “Alpini,” accompanied them on the climb. Months earlier, these men — three of whom are in their 70s

— cleared and marked a route all the way to the top of the ridgeline.

“We’re so grateful to the Alpini for creating a path for us,” Kealy said. “We’re so lucky to have these people who are still so grateful to the Americans that they are willing to clear these miles and miles of paths for us to climb.”

When talking to current 10th Mtn. Div. Soldiers in Afghanistan, Kealy said, she heard stories of gratitude from Afghans, similar to those of the Italians, who were treated well by U.S. forces during World War II.

Kealy said she hopes her film will foster a better relationship be-

tween the past and present Soldiers of the 10th Mtn. Div.

“They might not necessarily be as aware of each other as they could be, but I am really hoping this documentary will pull them together that way,” she said.

When the re-enactments and interviews for “The Last Ridge” are completed, Kealy will edit the film of the 10th Mtn. Div. into a 60-minute format.

Kealy said when the film airs on PBS, she hopes the division’s Soldiers, veterans and family members will view it as a tribute to all the division’s Soldiers and their “remarkable accomplishments.” 📺

“We’re so grateful to the Alpini for creating a path for us,” Kealy said. “We’re so lucky to have these people who are still so grateful to the Americans that they are willing to clear these miles and miles of paths for us to climb.”



▲ Soldiers at LSA Anaconda repair all types of Army aircraft, including the OH-58D, shown here flying a mission in Iraq.



# Keeping 'em FLYING

Story by  
CPT Sonise Lumbaca

**T**HERE is no comparison between what to do when your car “dies” while you’re driving to work and when your aircraft malfunctions over hostile territory.

Ground vehicles can be pushed off the road, allowing the driver to make repairs or call for help. Pulling over to the side of the road isn’t an option for pilots. And a mechanical failure can turn into a life-or-death situation.

Repairing and maintaining an aircraft requires more than changing its oil and checking the engine and tires to prevent breakdowns.

Soldiers of 1st Corps Support Command’s 507th Corps Sprt. Group

who work at Logistics Support Area Anaconda (LSAA), in Balad, Iraq, not only perform preventive maintenance on aircraft, but dismantle the aircraft and then conduct test flights after they have been reassembled.

Maintenance crews from the 507th CSG fix all types of Army aircraft and provide spare parts at two locations in Iraq, said LTC Terence Reeves, commander of the 507th’s 4th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment.

The unit is currently running phase maintenance operations, which are vital to ensure aircraft safety.

Phase maintenance is the maintenance and replacement of parts that manufacturers recommend replacing after an aircraft has flown for a specified number of hours, Reeves said.

Scheduled preventive maintenance

reduces flight disruptions and repair costs, and minimizes secondary damage due to premature failure.

“Normally phase operations take two to three months. We’re doing it here in about a month,” said MAJ Tim Resst, commander of the 4th Bn.’s Company F, a Michigan National Guard unit that is one of four companies subordinate to the 4th Bn.

Because the unit operates 24 hours a day, its Soldiers can complete phase maintenance in less time than is normally required and, because Army officials have placed a high priority on getting spare parts to maintenance crews, delays in getting aircraft back in the air are minimal, Resst said.

The battalion dismantles Army aircraft at LSAA when logs indicate the aircraft have logged 400 to 500

CPT Sonise Lumbaca is a member of the 1st Corps Support Command Public Affairs Office at Fort Bragg, N.C.





▲ SGT Ricardo Mariano (*right*), a non-destructor inspector, and PVT Kenneth A. Martinez, a powertrain mechanic, look for cracks and flaws within the frame and body of an AH-64D Apache Longbow during phase maintenance at LSAA.

flight hours. Additionally, the unit is responsible for providing aviation maintenance and supplies to support units of XVIII Airborne Corps.

"We provide maintenance crews and test pilots for the aircraft we work on," said Reeves.

Reeves' unit also provides direct support to the 18th Avn. Brigade and back-up support to the 42nd Infantry Division and 3rd Inf. Div.

"We not only provide aviation maintenance support at LSAA, we also have a detachment — the 1st Bn., 151st Avn. Task Force — that provides support," Reeves said.

The workload doesn't end there. Within the battalion, the Shops Platoon, part of Co. I, consists of about 30 Soldiers who operate seven sections.

"Each section specializes in con-

tributing to aircraft maintenance," said platoon sergeant SFC Greg L. Mayo.

The power plant-section repairs aircraft engines and conducts phase maintenance inspections, for example. The air-frame section specializes in structural repair.

"I make patches from sheet metal, to cover holes in the aircraft," said SPC Mark Judd.

The power-train section's responsibilities include maintenance of rotors, transmissions and drive shafts.

"Members of our non-destructor-inspector section look for cracks in aircraft frames and bodies," Mayo said. Other Soldiers in other sections repair hydraulic lines, brakes, pumps and actuators and maintain ground-support equipment.

SGT David Brown heads the weld-

ing and machine sections, repairing damage and making tools and equipment from raw metal, Mayo said.

"Since we've been here, the unit has conducted three aircraft-recovery missions," Reeves said. When an aircraft goes down, a crew of aviation mechanics and a pilot travel to the crash or landing site. "Our teams fly the tools and parts to the location and fix what's wrong. Then the pilot flies the aircraft back to its station.

Recently, members of the battalion conducted recovery operations after an aircraft crashed because a bird flew into its engine.

The battalion can deploy anywhere in the world within 36 hours, to conduct air-assault and air-movement operations in support of XVIII Abn. Corps. 🚩

# Sharp Shooters

**G**ERMANY — A group of 198 Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, arrived in Schweinfurt and attended a welcome-home reception at the Finney Fitness Center. This was one of three groups to arrive on the day, bringing the total number of redeployed Soldiers to 307. The group was greeted by a gym packed with beaming family members eager to hear the magic word “dismissed.” 🇺🇸

Kristen Chandler Toth



▲ With the American flag in the spotlight, Soldiers bow their heads for a brief prayer during their welcome-home ceremony.

◀ Wedged between his wife, Stephanie and his daughter, Savannah, SPC Jeremy Gilmore takes it all in.

Mail photo submissions for Sharp Shooters to:  
**Sharp Shooters, Soldiers**  
9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108  
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581  
Digital images should be directed to: **[lisa.gregory@belvoir.army.mil](mailto:lisa.gregory@belvoir.army.mil)**.  
All submissions must include an introductory paragraph and captions.

Margot Cornelius



Kristen Chandler Toth



▲ Stacey White and her children Jordan, Caitlyn and Haley scream with delight as they see their husband and father march in.

Margot Cornelius



Kristen Chandler Toth



▲ Returning Soldiers bow their heads during a memorial service for fallen comrades.

◀ SPC Charles Wade takes a moment to bond with his 6-month-old daughter, Haven.



## INFORMATION YOU WANT

THE new Soldiers Online has debuted at [www.soldiersmagazine.com](http://www.soldiersmagazine.com).

The online version augments the popular print version of the magazine.

"It will be the one-stop source for Soldiers' information, including news, features and information on career and family issues," said Gil High, Soldiers magazine editor in chief.

The online Soldiers can be accessed through Army Knowledge Online, as well as through most Army-related Web sites. Just click on the icon that looks like the cover of the magazine.

The online Soldiers differs from the print publication, although the print version and its archives will be available online.

"The online version will include daily updates from commands throughout the Army, the Army News Service and other organizations," High said.

The archives will also contain "Hot Topics" and other specialty publications printed by Soldiers. — *Army News Service*

## SHORTER WAIT FOR COMBAT BENEFITS

RETIREEES applying for combat-related service compensation will now have their applications processed within 30 days of receipt.

The faster pace is made possible by increased staffing, said COL John Sackett, chief of the CRSC division of Army Human Resources Command's Physical Disabilities Agency. The staff has grown from 10 to 70 since its inception in June 2004.

"Now we're making a concerted effort to notify everyone who might be eligible for the benefit," he said.

The CRSC benefit is for active and reserve-component military retirees who have 20 years or more of service and a Department of Veteran's Affairs disability rating of 10 percent or more. Applicants must be entitled to retired pay offset by VA disability payments, or they must have a VA waiver.

The disability must be combat related, although the injuries don't necessarily need to have occurred in combat.

"The key word is 'related.' We're more interested in how you were injured," Sackett said. "If you were training to go to combat, that's related to combat. I've had applicants bring in stacks of paper showing me what their disabilities are, but what I need to know is how the individual became disabled."

The lifetime monthly benefit is retroactive to the program's inception.

"We've issued checks for \$45,000 and \$50,000 to some retirees," Sackett said. — *Army News Service*



Information and application forms are available at [www.crsc.army.mil](http://www.crsc.army.mil).





## ARLINGTON CEMETERY DISPLAY

AN exhibition of more than 1,300 portraits of men and women killed in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts is now on display at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, Va., the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery.

The exhibit, called “Faces of the Fallen,” runs through Sept. 5 and represents service members from all U.S. states and territories. Portraits were created from newspaper photographs. For details, visit [www.facesofthefallen.org](http://www.facesofthefallen.org). — *Faces of the Fallen*

For more information, visit:  
[www.facesofthefallen.org](http://www.facesofthefallen.org)



## Care Packages

### FREE POSTAL SUPPLIES

THE U.S. Postal Service offers free packing materials to spouses and families of deployed service members.

USPS has created a “Mili-kit” based on the items most frequently ordered for care packages. The kit includes five each of four box sizes, a roll of priority-mail tape and 10 U.S. Customs forms with envelopes.

The kit may be ordered by calling (800) 610-8734. Choose language, option one, then request CAREKIT04. Supplies are free, but postage must be affixed.

— U.S. Postal Service



# A Night Out

**I**f you offer it they will come. And they did. What started as an evening out for one wounded Soldier at Walter Reed Army Medical Center has grown to a dinner event for more than 50 wounded Soldiers and their family members at Fran O'Briens Restaurant and Sports Bar in Washington, D.C.

"We started offering the Friday-night dinner about August 2003. **Jim Maier**, who goes to the hospital as a peer-level visitor, thought it would be a good idea for the Soldiers there to have a night out," said **Hal Koster**, manager of Fran O'Briens.

"He passed the word around and we had one Soldier come out with his family. That Soldier went back and spread the word, and now we have 40 to 50 Soldiers and family members come out each week."

SGT Wasim Khan has made the trip to the restaurant each week since the beginning. "I've been coming since they offered the night out. It's a

great opportunity to get away from the hospital and meet other veterans who've gone through what we're going through now.


"A lot of the Soldiers look forward to coming each week and meeting the guys from the different veterans organizations. It gives us a chance to find out who they are and what they do for us," said Khan.

According to Koster, as interest in the Friday-night dinner event grew, it was those same organizations that stepped up to help the Soldiers make it to the restaurant each week.

"We found out that a lot of the Soldiers wanted to come out but didn't have a way to get here," he said. "Some were in wheelchairs and needed assistance and that's when the Disabled American Veterans stepped up with a van to help these guys come out each week.

"Other organizations, like the Military Order of the Purple Heart, also have helped with sponsoring a meal. It's just another way to show these guys that there are people out there who understand what they're going through."

Koster is always on hand to welcome the Soldiers as they arrive and knows many of those who have returned each week with their families. "The doctors at the hospital have recognized that for some of the Soldiers a night out can be very helpful.

"One Soldier who was severely injured has been coming here since he could get out of the hospital," he said. "For the longest time he wouldn't even get out of bed unless it was time to come here. When I hear those stories, I know that this is a good thing for these Soldiers and I'm proud to be a part of that." 

*What started as an evening out for one wounded Soldier at Walter Reed Army Medical Center has grown to a dinner event for more than 50 wounded Soldiers and their family members.*



*"When I hear those stories, I know that this is a good thing for these Soldiers and I'm proud to be a part of that."*





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